

2007 WESTERN CANADA SUMMER GAMES

SOFTBALL TECHNICAL PACKAGE

Every Games' coach, manager, Sport Chairperson and Mission staff has an obligation to read and understand every aspect of the Technical Package. Failure to do so could cost an athlete his or her eligibility for the Games or could affect final standings or the conduct of the competition. If someone does not understand an aspect of a Technical Package, he or she is to seek clarification from the Technical Committee of the Western Canada Games Council through his or her Chef de Mission or Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization.

Technical Packages are developed primarily by Western Canada Games Technical Committee in conjunction with the various Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations, following principles, guidelines and requirements of the Western Canada Games Council. As the overall governing body of the Games, the Council has the ultimate authority for Technical Packages.

If an individual wishes to initiate a change to a Technical Package leading up to a Games, the desired change should be first directed to the Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization or the Chef de Mission. The P/TSO or Chef will evaluate the merits of the change and will, if it has merit, submit the requested change to the Technical Committee of the Western Canada Games Council. The P/TSO or Chef will submit the rationale for the change. Changes to age groups, eligibility requirements, team sizes or staff complements will not be considered after three years prior to the Games. Substantive changes to events or competition formats will not be considered after 18 months before the Games. Minor corrections will be considered at almost anytime, but will be increasingly difficult to achieve within six months of the Games. Changes made by the NSO's regarding WCSG alignment to the Canada Games will not be considered after April 1, 2007. These time frames reinforce the importance of complete understanding of the Technical Package early.

2007 Western Canada Summer Games Technical Committee

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Summary of Draft Changes to Technical Package

Date	Details	Initiated By	Status
Dec 6/04	Addition of the potential for a double round robin for the males should the competition only have 4 teams	Alberta	
Mar 8/05	CBET Clarification added	WCSG Tech Cte	
Jul 15/05	Protest/Appeals component revised (Appendix II)	WCSG Tech Cte	Approved by WCSG Tech Cte
Dec 15/05	Changed balls listed to conform with Softball Canada rules	SK	Approved by WCSG Tech Cte
Oct 24/06	Mercy rule 6.2 changed to reflect revised Softball Canada rules	Softball Canada	Approved
Oct 24/06	Tiebreaking rules 6.3 changed to reflect revised Softball Canada rules	Softball Canaada	Approved
Nov 8/06	Clarification of NCCP Coaching requirement for coaching staff (removal of requirement for manager)	Tech Committee	Approved

Summary of Denied Proposals of Change to Technical Package

Date	Proposal	Initiated By	Rational for proposal being denied
Mar 7/05 and Dec 15/05	Change number of competitors to 15	BC	Team sizes will not be adjusted

2007 Western Canada Summer Games Technical Package

1. Sport: **SOFTBALL**

2. Participants:

2.1. Competitors: 14 male athletes
14 female athletes

2.2. Staff: Men's: 2 coaches and 1 manager
one of whom must be male

Women's: 2 coaches and 1 manager
one of whom must be female

3. Classification:

3.1 Year of Birth: Born in 1991 or later (Bantam category)
Under 16 prior to January 1, 2007

4. Eligibility:

4.1 Coaches:

The head coach listed on the official registration form must be fully certified (theory, technical and practical) under the National Coaching Certification Program to at least Level 3 in Softball or equivalent under the Competency Based Education Training system.

The assistant coach shall be fully certified to at least Level 2 in Softball or equivalent under the Competency Based Education Training system.

Coaching certification must be completed no later than ninety (90) days before the opening of the Games.

4.2 Athletes:

4.2.1 All athletes must meet the Western Canada Games Eligibility criteria, as outlined in Appendix 1 which forms an integral part of this Technical Package.

4.2.2 Excluded from the Games are:

a) Current Canadian national softball team members (World Youth or Senior).

b) Athletes who have competed in the sport of softball at the following major Games or Championships: Pan American, Commonwealth, Olympics.

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- 4.3 Interpretation:
- 4.3.1 Athletes who are members of the Canadian national senior softball team and athletes who are carded (as defined by Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program) or obtain their card prior to May 1, 2007 are **excluded** from the Western Canada Summer Games.
 - 4.3.2 Athletes who are carded or become Canadian national softball team members on or after May 1, 2007 are **eligible** to compete in the Western Canada Summer Games.
 - 4.3.3 Athletes who are de-carded or dropped from the Canadian national softball team prior to May 1, 2007 are **eligible**, providing they meet all other Western Canada Summer Games eligibility criteria.

5. Competition:

- 5.1 Rules
The official rules of Softball Canada will govern the competition.
- 5.2 Sanction
The competition is sanctioned by the Softball Canada.
- 5.3 Equipment
The balls that will be utilized for the competition are as follows:
 - Men's: Worth K-Master F120WCC Cor.47 12" syco (white)
 - Women's: Worth Red Dot PX2RYLC Cor.47 12" Pro Leather (optic)

A double base shall be used at first base.
- 5.4 Event Format
 - 5.4.1 There shall be a qualifying round involving all teams. For the Men's competition (5 teams), there will be a single round robin involving all teams. If there are only four teams in the competition, there will be a double round robin involving all teams.
For the Women's competition (4 teams), there will be a double round robin involving all teams.
 - 5.4.2 Playoff Round: In each category the top four (4) teams will make the playoffs. The top two (2) teams will have two (2) lives and the next two (2) teams will have a single life.
 - 5.4.3 The designated player rule will be in effect.
- 5.5 Seeding
Not required for the round robin format.

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5.6 Protests

All protest shall be filed in accordance with the Western Canada Games Protest Procedures, which are attached as Appendix 2 and form an integral part of this technical package.

6. Scoring Procedures:

6.1 The scoring procedure is as follows:

Win – 2 points

Loss – 0 points

6.2 A mercy rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:

6.2.1 After 2 ½, 3, 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play if there is a difference of fifteen (15) runs.

6.2.2 After 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, or 6 innings of play if there is a difference of seven (7) runs.

6.3 Tie Breaking

6.3.1 **Games:** The tie-breaker rule will go into effect starting with the top of the eighth inning, in qualifying round and playoff games, as per softball Canada's tie breaking rule.

6.3.2 **Rankings:** Should ties occur between/among the provinces/territories, division standings or rankings will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. Won/Lost of the teams that are tied
2. If 2 teams are tied, winner of the game between tied teams
3. If 3 or more teams are tied, won/lost record between tied teams only
4. If teams are still tied, then Least Runs Against in games between the tied teams only
 - If two teams are tied with Least Runs Against, revert to 2 above.
5. If more than two teams are still tied after 4 above, then Most Runs For in games between tied teams
 - If two teams are tied with Most Runs for, revert to 2 above.
6. If still tied, positions will be settled by a coin toss.

NOTE: When using the above criteria, only 4, 5, 6 etc. FULL innings in 4 ½, 5 ½, 6 ½ etc. inning games are to be used.

6.3.3 If a tie exists for the last playoff position or where it represents the difference between one or two "lives", it will be broken as follows:

- a) If two teams are tied, they will play a sudden death playoff game.
- b) If three teams are tied: A bye shall go to the team ranking the highest using the criteria outlined above, who shall then play the winner of the sudden death game between the other two teams.

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7. Provincial/Territorial Ranking:

7.1 For an event to be eligible for Provincial/Territorial points, three (3) or more provinces/territories must participate.

7.2 Once the scoring procedure for the sport determines a winner, points for the aggregate award will be as follows:

1 st place - 7 points	4 th place - 4 points
2 nd place - 6 points	5 th place - 3 points
3 rd place - 5 points	6 th place - 2 points
	7 th place - 1 point

Final Provincial point standings will be the total number of points after the scoring of the team competition. Separate points will be awarded for the men's and women's competition. The maximum number of points a province could receive is fourteen (14).

8. Competitive Uniform:

8.1 Provincial colors shall be worn by the teams.

9. Medals:

9.1 Gold, silver and bronze awards will be presented on a team basis to the first, second and third place finishers, including the coaches and managers.

9.2 Medals: 34 gold 34 silver 34 bronze

APPENDIX I

WESTERN CANADA SUMMER GAMES COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The Western Canada Summer Games are open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.
2. The Games are open to athletes who are members in good standing of their provincial/territorial and/or national sport organization.
3. An athlete's permanent domicile or actual residence must be located, for at least the 180 days prior to the opening of the Games, within the recognized boundaries of the province or territory they are representing. An athlete can have only one domicile.
4. Students attending school on a full-time basis outside their province/territory of permanent residence during the year of the Games shall be permitted to compete for either their province/territory of permanent residence or the province/territory in which the athlete attends school. To be eligible to compete for the province/territory where the athlete attends school, the student must be enrolled on a full-time basis during the academic year preceding the Games.
5. If a non-student athlete attends a recognized national training centre outside his or her province/territory of permanent residence, the athlete is encouraged to represent his or her province/territory of permanent residence; however, the athlete could represent the province/territory where the centre is located under the terms of paragraph (7), below.
6. Exceptions to the domicile requirement will be possible if the athlete can demonstrate a commitment to the province or territory she or he wishes to represent by such means as having been a member of a club or provincial/territorial sport organization in that province/territory for the entire previous competitive season, having represented that province or territory at a previous national or regional championship or having attended school full-time the previous academic year or a recognized national training centre full-time during the previous 12 months. Other similar circumstances may be considered.
7. Competitors must meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the Technical Package.
8. An athlete is permitted to try out for only one province or territory per Games.
9. The eligibility of any athlete that is not clearly established by these rules and by the Technical Package shall be determined by the Technical Committee of the Council.
Coaches or PSOs/TSOs must bring forward any unclear cases to their Chef de Mission and to their NSO as early as possible before the competition for forwarding to the Technical Committee.
10. Where a team/province/territory/Chef wishes to challenge the eligibility of an athlete on another provincial/territorial team, it is expected that such a challenge will be made as soon as the protesting team knows that an athlete may be ineligible. Every effort must be made to ensure that protests on eligibility are lodged before an athlete competes.

APPENDIX II

WESTERN CANADA SUMMER GAMES GUIDE TO PROTESTS/APEALS

Introduction:

The rules and regulations that govern an athlete's participation in the Western Canada Summer Games emanate from variety of responsible agencies. For example:

- technical packages are developed by the Western Canada Games Council in consultation with National Sport Organizations (NSO's) and Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations (P/TSO's);
- team selection is done by Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations based on the technical packages;
- field of play matters are governed by NSO rules for each sport;
- the Host Society establishes certain expectations of athletes in Games venues (i.e., Village), but conduct and discipline are managed by Provincial/Territorial teams.

In an effort to clarify the various jurisdictions and processes in place to deal with particular cases in the lead up to or during the Western Canada Games, the Western Canada Games Council has developed this guide. Please direct any comments or questions to the Chair of the Western Canada Games Council.

Appeal/ Protest Type	Authority	Reported by	Forwarded by	Forwarded to	Decision by
Eligibility & Residency Protest	WCSG Technical Committee	Sport	Chef de Mission	WCSG Technical Committee Chair	WCSG Technical Committee
Eligibility & Residency Appeal	WCG Council	Chef de Mission	Chef de Mission	Chair, WCG Council	WCG Council
Technical Package Issue Protest (scoring or ranking)	Sport Specific Jury	Sport	Sport	Sport Specific Jury	Sport Specific Jury
Technical Package Issue (scoring or ranking) Appeal	WCSG Technical Committee	Sport	Chef de Mission	WCSG Technical Committee Chair	WCSG Technical Committee
Field of Play	NSO/Sport Rule Book	Sport	Sport	Head Official	As per sport rule book

* **Sport** indicates those people associated with the individual provincial/territorial sport team (i.e. coach, manager, P/TSO staff)

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1) Eligibility and Residency of Athletes:

Description:

Prior to and during the Games, athlete eligibility is determined by the Technical Committee of the Western Canada Games Council based on the technical packages.

Reporting Procedures:

Prior to the Games, the Technical Committee will continue to deal with interpretation issues from Chefs de Mission through written submissions. During the Games, a three person sub-committee of the Technical Committee will deal with all interpretations and protests. A protest must be submitted in writing by the Chef de Mission. Every effort must be made to bring the protest forward at the earliest opportunity.

Appeals:

If there are grounds for appeal of the Technical Committee decision, appeals will be dealt with by the Western Canada Games Council, who will appoint an Appeals Committee. All decisions of the Council / Appeals Committee are final.

Appeals Procedure:

Any appeal of a Technical Committee decision must be done in writing and submitted by the Chef de Mission to the Western Canada Games Council.

An appeal may be heard only if there are sufficient grounds for appeal. The sufficient grounds include the Technical Committee:

- making a decision for which it did not have the authority or jurisdiction as set out in the technical packages;
- failing to follow procedures as laid out in the technical package;
- making a decision which was influenced by bias;
- failing to consider relevant information or taking into account irrelevant information in making the decision;
- exercising its discretion for an improper purpose; and/or
- making a decision which was unreasonable.

The Appeals Committee will convene to review the notice of appeal and reason for the appeal and shall decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for an appeal.

If there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, a hearing shall be held. The format of the hearing shall be at the discretion of the Appeals Committee and may involve documentary submissions, telephone conference, in-person appearances, or a combination of these formats. The following procedures shall apply to any hearing, regardless of its format:

- The parties shall be given reasonable notice of the hearing;
- Any documents that the parties wish the Appeals Committee to consider shall be provided to the other parties, in advance of the hearing;
- Either party may be assisted in the hearing by a representative, advocate or advisor;
- The Appeals Committee may request that any other individuals participate in the hearing.

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As soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Committee shall issue its written decision, with reasons. The Appeals Committee shall have the authority to uphold the Technical Committee's decision, to reverse the decision and substitute a new decision, to refer the matter back to the Technical Committee to render a new decision, and/or to modify any of the Games' results impacted by its decision.

In extraordinary circumstances, the Appeals Committee may issue a verbal decision, with the written decision with reasons to follow.

The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the parties.

2) Technical Package Issues (excluding residency and eligibility):

Description:

Technical package issues dealing with sport scoring or ranking are first decided by the technical official at the venue.

Reporting Procedures:

Protests relating to technical issues are made to a sport specific "sport jury".

Appeals:

If there are grounds for appeal of the "sport jury" protest decision, appeals may be heard by the sub-committee of the Technical Committee of the Western Canada Games Council. All decisions of the Technical Committee sub-committee are final.

Appeals Procedure:

An appeal may be heard only if there are sufficient grounds for appeal. The sufficient grounds include the Sport Jury:

- making a decision for which it did not have the authority or jurisdiction as set out in the technical packages;
- failing to follow procedures as laid out in the technical package;
- making a decision which was influenced by bias;
- failing to consider relevant information or taking into account irrelevant information in making the decision;
- exercising its discretion for an improper purpose; and/or
- making a decision which was unreasonable.

The Technical Committee will convene to review the notice of appeal and reason for the appeal and shall decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for an appeal.

If there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, a hearing shall be held. The format of the hearing shall be at the discretion of the Technical Committee and may involve documentary submissions, telephone conference, in-person appearances, or a combination of these formats. The following procedures shall apply to any hearing, regardless of its format:

- The parties shall be given reasonable notice of the hearing;
- Any documents that the parties wish the Technical Committee to consider shall be provided to the other parties, in advance of the hearing;
- Either party may be assisted in the hearing by a representative, advocate or advisor;

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- The Technical Committee may request that any other individuals participate in the hearing.

As soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing, the Technical Committee shall issue its written decision, with reasons. The Technical Committee shall have the authority to uphold the Sport Jury's decision, to reverse the decision and substitute a new decision, to refer the matter back to the Sport Jury to render a new decision, and/or to modify any of the Games' results impacted by its decision.

In extraordinary circumstances, the Technical Committee may issue a verbal decision, with the written decision with reasons to follow.

The decision of the Technical Committee shall be final and binding on the parties.

3) Field of Play:

Rules governing the conduct of the specific sport contests shall be as specified in the NSO rule book unless otherwise stated in the Technical Packages. Disputes over field of play decisions and rulings will be dealt with using the protest and appeals mechanisms of each sport.

Please Note:

All appeals to the Technical Committee, Appeals Committee or Games Jury shall use the attached forms, and the decisions of such appeals shall also be communicated by the attached forms. Once completed, the appeals form shall be forwarded to the Chef de Mission of the province/territory making the appeal who will in turn forward it to the appropriate appeals committee.

All communication regarding the appeals and decision of such appeals will be through the respective Chef de Mission.

The notification of the decision of the Appeals Committee shall include the following items:

- Issue to be decided
- Authorities considered
- Positions of the parties
- Facts as determined by the Appeals Committee
- Decision
- Reason for decision
- Date and signature of Appeals Committee Chair

Western Canada Summer Games Protest/Appeals Form

	Eligibility or Residence Protest
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	Technical Package Protest (scoring or ranking)
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	Field of Play Protest
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	Eligibility or Residence Appeal
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	Technical Package Appeal (scoring or ranking)
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	Field of Play Appeal
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This form must be completed and submitted to the appropriate body to hear the protest.

Date: _____

Name of Individual: _____

Position of Individual: _____

Province/Territory: _____

Decision being Appealed:

Rationale:

Signature - Individual: _____

Signature – Chef de Mission: _____
*required for eligibility and technical package protests

Province/Territory: _____

Date and Time: _____